

to protect our people are undermined by inaction by this Congress.

The Charleston loophole is the decent place to begin. We sat in on the House floor because we could not go home in silence for July Fourth. Today, we declare no recess from the gun show loophole until universal background checks become the law of the land.

GUN SAFETY

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, we ought to be able to go to the store, walk down our sidewalks, and go dancing without the fear of being shot. Democrats and Republicans in the United States House of Representatives need to come together to pass commonsense gun safety legislation.

What is wrong with a no fly, no buy bill? If you can't get on a plane, if you cannot board one of our commercial aircraft carriers in this country, why in the world can you go into a sporting goods store and buy a TEC-9—or any kind of gun for that matter? We need to do something.

Let me tell you, as a native Texan, responsible gun owners aren't the problem. I own a gun. A lot of Democrats that I know own guns. But I don't want al Qaeda and I don't want ISIS owning guns. But under the current laws in the U.S., if they are on a no-fly list, they can go into a sporting goods store and buy a gun.

It is just not right. Let's take some action now, Mr. Speaker.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, if you go to a federally licensed gun dealer to buy a firearm, you must pass a background check. But if you go to a private seller at a gun show or over the Internet, it is completely legal to buy a firearm with no background check to determine if you are fit to own a deadly weapon.

In all the discussion we have had on gun violence, I have yet to hear one good reason why this loophole should continue to exist.

Mr. Speaker, 92 percent of gun owners and 86 percent of Republican voters support universal background checks. But instead of listening to the American people, my Republican colleagues have left town. They have rushed out of town. They have scrambled out of town.

I will say the same thing I told my students when I was a high school teacher: There can be no recess until our work is done.

Come back to Washington, and let's pass a universal background check bill.

CONGRESS MUST DO ITS JOB

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the House of Representatives prepares to leave Washington for 7 weeks—52 days—without addressing some of the most critical issues we face in this country.

Instead of working together, Democrats and Republicans, towards meaningful solutions to protect the American people, we spent the week debating bills that are going to go absolutely nowhere.

Our constituents are tired of our not getting things done. We have failed to meaningfully respond to the Flint water crisis, which has left families in my home State of Michigan reeling for too long.

My women friends are afraid to go outside because they are afraid they are going to be bitten by a mosquito, and we failed to provide critical resources to respond to the Zika health crisis.

When I meet with victims of domestic violence, which I do quietly every week, they want to know why can't we just talk about it.

People want to know why I am coming home for so long. They want action in this Chamber. We need to do the job the American people elected us to do. We need to come together to find solutions to the bigger problems we face.

Let's do our job.

ISSUES LEFT UNADDRESSED

(Mr. SERRANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, when you think about it, it is a very simple solution to think about: If you can't fly because you are too dangerous to be on a plane and you are a threat to the country, why would you be allowed to buy a gun? Yet the gun lobby is so strong that our colleagues in the Republican Party could not see fit to change that.

Secondly, we have another threat in this country and that we are not paying attention to. We have a Zika epidemic that is brewing. It started already. It is hurting the territories. It is going to hurt Florida in a strong way, and it will move north. Then it might be too late, when we have so many people sick.

Why would they leave town and run away from real issues when they could have stayed here and faced the American people by doing the right thing? What are they going to say now to the American people when they ask: Why didn't you protect the children? Why didn't you protect the pregnant women? Why didn't you stop crazy people or people who need help from getting on an airplane with a gun?

That is the big issue that we have to deal with.

□ 1530

CONGRESS HAS BEEN GROSSLY IRRESPONSIBLE

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Congress is set to take the longest recess in memory with critical national priorities, even emergencies, unaddressed.

Three weeks ago on the floor of this House, we engaged in civil disobedience to protest the carnage of gun violence in our country and the disgrace of congressional inaction in the face of that.

Republican leadership was prevented by their Freedom Caucus from putting even a token measure on the floor. But we will not rest until we are able to keep guns out of the hands of prospective terrorists and are able to have effective background checks.

And now, incredibly, the Zika crisis is upon us. Months ago this should have been addressed. I convened researchers and government officials from my area, which is a research hub, to talk about the heroic efforts underway to find out how to prevent the spread of this virus, to understand how to develop a vaccine. Heroic work is going on. People are moving money around, dealing with the absence of a steady funding stream.

We have let our people down. A public health crisis is coming. Congress has been grossly irresponsible in failing to provide steady and sure emergency funding for what is surely going to be a desperate public health emergency.

ANNIVERSARY OF SANDRA BLAND'S DEATH

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on Congress to stay in session to take action against public health crises that are plaguing our country.

As the only Ph.D. scientist in Congress, I find it deeply disturbing that Congress has failed to act in the face of clear evidence: 91 Americans die from gunshot wounds every day; since 2014, more than 28,000 Americans have died from opioid overdoses; dangerous levels of lead are present in the drinking water of thousands of American families; and the Zika virus is a global health crisis that is now reaching our shores. Too many Americans are dying from senseless, but preventable, causes.

I represent the 11th District of Illinois, and this week marked the 1-year anniversary of another senseless death. Sandra Bland was a beloved member of our community. She died 1 year ago yesterday, alone in a Texas jail, after she was arrested for a minor traffic violation.

After 3 days in jail, Ms. Bland was found dead in her cell. The coroner ruled it a suicide, but we still don't